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ABSTRACT

The original normative base for the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) was established in the late 1930's and early 1940's. While there was a refining of this original sample in 1957, no contemporary standards for normal people have been published. To develop new norms a random sample of 1,919 households in and near Rochester, Minnesota, was contacted. Telephone interviewers obtained demographic information and determined whether there were physically or mentally handicapping conditions among potential subjects. MMPI's were returned from 667 males and 800 females (an 86 percent response rate). This contemporary sample was somewhat older (mean age = 45, F; 43, M) and better educated (mean = 13 years, M, F) than the original sample. Responses from this sample yielded MMPI profiles significantly elevated in comparison with the original norms, with men showing greater increases than women. Many scales also demonstrated age-related changes. The results are of practical as well as statistical significance. They suggest that clinicians take a somewhat more conservative approach to profile interpretation and also integrate the impact of age and sex on profile configuration. (Author/PN)

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The MMPI: A Contemporary Normative Study

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Butcher and Tellegen (1978) have pointed out the notable lack of revision-oriented research in the MMPI literature, although the MMPI was developed more than 40 years ago. The original normative base was established in the late 1930's and early 1940's (Hathaway and McKinley, 1940; McKinley and Hathaway, 1943). Aside from refining the original Minnesota sample (Hathaway and Briggs, 1957) no contemporary standards for normal people have been published. Some unpublished work has been done (Diehl, 1977) and results from a small sample of normal parents (Anderson, 1969) have been reported; however, Anderson's Ss were drawn as a control sample for a clinical study and not intended for normative use. Clearly, there have been significant changes in our society during the past 40 years, but there has not been a systematic re-examination of the original normative data to determine whether they are still valid for contemporary use.

In order to study this matter, we contacted a random sample of 1,919 households drawn from an area within a 50 mile radius of Rochester, Minnesota. Telephone interviewers obtained demographic information and determined whether there were physically or mentally handicapping conditions among potential respondents. This procedure yielded 1,711 adult subjects ranging in age from 18 through 99, who agreed to participate in the study. MMPI's were returned from 667 males and 800 females, an 86% response rate.

This paper will present MMPI data for (1) seven age groups, (2) an age/sex census-matched sample (CMS) based on figures from the 1980 U.S. Census and (3) provide some scale and item comparisons with the original MMPI norms.

Attached are three tables summarizing information about sample size, age, education and mean scale scores for nine clinical and four supplemental scales.

To summarize, in general, a large sample of people living in the 1980's, not under the care of a doctor for any physically or mentally handicapping condition, obtained somewhat elevated MMPI profiles suggesting a greater degree of psychological and physical stress than those obtained from a comparable sample of people from the 1940's. An alternative, but not mutually exclusive explanation based upon item review suggests that changes in response patterns may be primarily due to changes in societal mores and perceptions. The results are of practical as well as statistical significance and, suggest that clinicians take a somewhat more conservative approach to profile interpretation with more careful consideration of the impact of age and sex on profile configuration. Thus it is apparent that new MMPI norms are needed. Normalized T-score conversion tables, for adult men and women as well as tables specific for both age and sex, are currently in preparation (Colligan, et. al., 1983).

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TABLE 1

THE MMPI: A CONTEMPORARY NORMATIVE STUDY

Sex, Age, and Education of Census Matched Sample*

Age Range	N		Age		Education	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
18-19	16	16	18	19	12 (1)	12 ()*
20-29	77	77	26	25	14 (2)	14 (1)
30-39	61	62	34	34	15 (3)	14 (1)
40-49	44	45	45	44	14 (3)	13 (2)
50-59	45	49	54	55	12 (3)	12 (2)
60-69	35	42	64	64	10 (3)	11 (2)
70+	27	44	76	78	10 (4)	11 (3)
Total Group	305	335	43	45	13 (3)	13 (2)

*Reported as mean (SD)

TABLE 2
THE MMPI: A CONTEMPORARY NORMATIVE STUDY

Mean T-Score Values: Clinical Scales*

(Males)

Age Range	N	L	F	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
18-19	16	47 (8)	56 (5)	50 (8)	52 (11)	53 (11)	56 (8)	61 (11)	59 (10)	57 (8)	59 (10)	57 (12)	63 (11)
20-29	101	45 (6)	56 (9)	53 (9)	51 (8)	52 (11)	54 (7)	56 (10)	59 (11)	56 (9)	55 (10)	56 (11)	60 (11)
30-39	133	47 (7)	55 (8)	55 (8)	52 (9)	55 (11)	58 (8)	57 (12)	59 (10)	57 (8)	55 (11)	54 (12)	56 (11)
40-49	98	48 (7)	53 (6)	57 (8)	53 (9)	53 (10)	57 (8)	54 (10)	59 (11)	54 (8)	52 (9)	51 (9)	53 (9)
50-59	111	50 (7)	54 (7)	55 (9)	56 (11)	56 (11)	59 (9)	52 (10)	58 (9)	54 (9)	53 (8)	51 (12)	50 (9)
60-69	113	53 (8)	53 (8)	56 (9)	55 (11)	57 (11)	57 (9)	51 (10)	56 (9)	52 (10)	53 (10)	50 (10)	49 (10)
70-91	74	56 (9)	54 (7)	56 (9)	59 (10)	60 (11)	57 (9)	50 (9)	51 (9)	53 (8)	52 (9)	51 (8)	49 (9)
CMS	305	49 (8)	54 (7)	54 (9)	54 (10)	54 (11)	57 (9)	54 (11)	58 (10)	55 (9)	54 (10)	53 (12)	55 (11)

(Females)

Age Range	N	L	F	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
18-19	42	46 (7)	54 (7)	54 (8)	50 (7)	50 (8)	53 (7)	56 (9)	48 (8)	56 (11)	54 (7)	57 (7)	59 (10)
20-29	128	46 (7)	52 (6)	55 (10)	49 (7)	52 (8)	52 (7)	55 (10)	46 (10)	56 (9)	54 (7)	54 (8)	54 (11)
30-39	147	47 (6)	51 (6)	56 (9)	49 (9)	52 (10)	53 (9)	55 (10)	45 (9)	56 (8)	53 (9)	53 (10)	52 (9)
40-49	110	49 (6)	52 (5)	55 (9)	51 (8)	52 (8)	53 (7)	53 (11)	45 (8)	57 (7)	53 (8)	53 (8)	51 (11)
50-59	130	51 (7)	52 (6)	56 (9)	53 (9)	54 (10)	55 (9)	53 (11)	47 (9)	54 (7)	53 (10)	53 (9)	50 (10)
60-69	117	54 (8)	52 (5)	56 (9)	52 (9)	55 (8)	53 (9)	49 (9)	49 (8)	52 (9)	52 (8)	53 (8)	46 (10)
70-99	88	56 (9)	54 (8)	52 (9)	56 (12)	58 (11)	54 (9)	48 (10)	52 (8)	54 (9)	54 (9)	53 (9)	49 (9)
CMS	335	50 (8)	52 (6)	55 (9)	51 (9)	54 (9)	53 (8)	53 (10)	46 (9)	56 (8)	53 (8)	54 (8)	51 (10)

*listed as $\bar{X}$ (SD); K-corrected T-scores based on the old MMPI norms.

TABLE 3

THE MMPI: A CONTEMPORARY NORMATIVE STUDY

*
Mean T-Score Values: Supplemental Scales

(Males)

AGE RANGE	N	S1	Es	A	R
18-19	16	54 (10)	54 (8)	54 (5)	48 (10)
20-29	101	52 (11)	56 (9)	49 (9)	50 (9)
30-39	133	53 (10)	57 (9)	48 (9)	51 (9)
40-49	98	52 (9)	58 (8)	45 (8)	52 (9)
50-59	111	54 (9)	53 (9)	48 (9)	53 (9)
60-69	113	54 (9)	53 (9)	47 (9)	56 (10)
70+	74	55 (8)	50 (8)	47 (8)	57 (9)
CMS	305	53 (10)	55 (9)	48 (9)	52 (10)

(Females)

AGE RANGE	N	S1	Es	A	R
18-19	42	51 (8)	57 (9)	48 (9)	44 (9)
20-29	128	54 (10)	57 (9)	46 (10)	49 (10)
30-39	147	54 (10)	58 (9)	45 (9)	50 (10)
40-49	110	56 (9)	56 (8)	47 (9)	51 (9)
50-59	130	56 (10)	54 (8)	46 (9)	52 (10)
60-69	117	59 (10)	51 (8)	46 (8)	56 (10)
70+	88	58 (9)	46 (10)	50 (10)	53 (10)
CMS	335	56 (10)	54 (9)	47 (9)	51 (10)

* listed as $\bar{X}$ (SD); K-corrected T-scores based on the old MMPI norms.

Table 4
FEMALES

Thirty MMPI items showing greatest change in % responding True comparing the Hathaway-Briggs (H-B) norms to the census-matched sample (CMS), listed in descending order of statistical significance.¹

H-B	CMS	
11	66	73. I am an important person.
34	5	69. I am very strongly attracted by members of my own sex.
81	47	26. I feel that it is certainly best to keep my mouth shut when I am in trouble.
30	65	127. I know who is responsible for most of my troubles.
45	15	398. I often think, "I wish I were a child again."
62	30	510. Dirt frightens or disgusts me.
63	31	383. People often disappoint me.
78	45	558. A large number of people are guilty of bad sexual conduct.
42	15	265. It is safer to trust nobody.
35	10	457. I believe that a person should never taste an alcoholic drink.
43	16	240. I never worry about my looks.
62	32	89. I takes a lot of argument to convince most people of the truth.
25	5	519. There is something wrong with my sex organs.
48	21	389. My plans have frequently seemed so full of difficulties that I have had to give them up.
59	30	232. I have been inspired to a program of life based on duty which I have since carefully followed.
29	8	279. I drink an unusually large amount of water every day.
18	2	363. At times I have enjoyed being hurt by someone I loved.
50	23	395. The future is too uncertain for a person to make serious plans.
25	6	19. When I take a new job, I like to be tipped off on who should be gotten next to.
29	54	525. I am made nervous by certain animals.
57	31	244. My way of doing things is apt to be misunderstood by others.
51	26	319. Most people inwardly dislike putting themselves out to help other people.
26	8	345. I often feel as if things were not real.
25	7	213. In walking I am very careful to step over sidewalk cracks.
28	9	157. I feel that I have often been punished without cause.
61	37	129. Often I can't understand why I have been so cross and grouchy.
52	76	430. I am attracted by members of the opposite sex.
67	87	464. I have never seen a vision.
45	22	470. Sexual things disgust me.
45	23	375. When I am feeling very happy and active, someone who is blue or low will spoil it all.

1. 128 items were significant at $p < .0001$, 17 more at $p \leq .001$

Table 5
MALES

Thirty MMPI items showing greatest change in % responding True comparing the Hathaway-Briggs (H-B) norms to the census-matched sample (CMS), listed in descending order of statistical significance.¹

H-B	CMS	
20	62	73. I am an important person.
28	3	363. At times I have enjoyed being hurt by someone I loved.
31	5	69. I am very strongly attracted by members of my own sex.
79	43	558. A large number of people are guilty of bad sexual conduct.
32	7	457. I believe that a person should never taste an alcoholic drink.
36	9	279. I drink an unusually large amount of water every day.
34.	8	470. Sexual things disgust me.
49	18	265. It is safer to trust nobody.
34	9	365. I feel uneasy indoors.
14	42	525. I am made nervous by certain animals.
9	35	215. I have used alcohol excessively.
45	18	413. I deserve severe punishment for my sins.
83	56	493. I prefer work which requires close attention, to work which allows me to be careless.
77	50	348. I tend to be on my guard with people who are somewhat more friendly than I had expected.
53	26	229. I should like to belong to several clubs or lodges.
51	25	548. I never attend a sexy show if I can avoid it.
62	86	430. I am attracted by members of the opposite sex.
35	13	510. Dirt frightens or disgusts me.
31	59	127. I know who is responsible for most of my troubles.
63	36	89. It takes a lot of argument to convince most people of the truth.
40	17	427. I am embarrassed by dirty stories.
28	9	213. In walking I am very careful to step over sidewalk cracks.
79	56	214. I have never had any breaking out on my skin that has worried me.
45	22	389. My plans frequently seem so full of difficulties that I have had to give them up.
53	29	240. I never worry about my looks.
50	26	398. I often think, "I wish I were a child again."
15	37	277. At times I have been so entertained by the cleverness of a crook that I have hoped he would get by with it.
10	30	266. Once a week or oftener I become very excited.
38	18	505. I have had periods when I felt so full of pep that sleep did not seem necessary for days at a time.
63.	40	254. I like to be with a crowd who plays jokes on one another.

1. 101 items were significant at $p \leq .0001$, 24 more at $p \leq .001$

Table 6
Linear Correlation Coefficients Between Chronological Age and
Basic MMPI Scales¹

MMPI Scale	Females (N=762)		Males (N=646)	
	Raw Score ³	T-Score ⁴	Raw Score	T-Score
L	44 ²	44	42	42
F	07	07	-11	-11
K	-04	-04	11	11
1 (Hs)	24	24	18	25
2 (D)	20	20	21	21
3 (Hy)	08	08	07	07
4 (Pu)	-22	-24	-30	-27
5 (Mf)	-19	19	-17	-17
6 (Pa)	-16	-15	-19	-19
7 (Pt)	-01	-04	-16	-13
8 (Sc)	-03	-07	-20	-16
9 (Ma)	-25	-26	-38	-38
0 (Si)	19	19	11	11
Es	-37	-37	-22	-22
A	06	06	-08	-08
R	24	24	28	28

1. Decimals omitted for clarity

2. Critical values for linear correlation:

$$p = .05 = r \geq .077$$

$$p = .01 = r \geq .101$$

$$p = .001 = r \geq .129$$

3. Non K-corrected

4. K-corrected

Table 7

Linear Correlation Coefficients Between Years of Education and
Basic MMPI Scales¹

MMPI Scale	Females (N=759)		Males (N=643)	
	Raw Score ³	T-Score ⁴	Raw Score	T-Score
L	-26 ²	-26	-28	-28
F	-18	-18	-08	-08
K	18	18	16	17
1 (Hs)	-26	-18	-30	-22
2 (D)	-20	-20	-18	-18
3 (Hy)	-04	-04	00	00
4 (Pd)	-02	06	-01	05
5 (Mf)	27	-28	35	35
6 (Pa)	05	04	06	06
7 (Pt)	-16	-06	-11	00
8 (Sc)	-17	-06	-10	01
9 (Ma)	08	12	11	15
0 (Si)	-21	-21	-19	-19

1. Decimals omitted for clarity

2. Critical values for linear correlation:

$$p = .05 = r \geq .077$$

$$p = .01 = r \geq .101$$

$$p = .001 = r \geq .129$$

3. Non K-corrected

4. K-corrected

Table 8
FEMALES

Three MMPI items showing greatest changes in percent responding True comparing the Hathaway-Briggs (H-B) sample to census-matched sample (CMS), listed in descending order of statistical significance for 13 basic MMPI scales.

H-B	CMS		Scale L
59	77	255.	Sometimes at elections I vote for men about whom I know very little.
79	91	285.	Once in a while I laugh at a dirty joke.
60	44	45.	I do not always tell the truth.
Scale F			
4	17	215.	I have used alcohol excessively.
4	14	14.	I have diarrhea once a month or more.
94	83	199.	Children should be taught all the main facts of sex.
Scale K			
45	15	398.	I often think, "I wish I were a child again."
63	31	383.	People often disappoint me.
62	32	89.	It takes a lot of argument to convince most people of the truth.
Scale 1 (Hs)			
57	72	230.	I hardly ever notice my heart pounding and I am seldom short of breath.
85	94	153.	During the past few years I have been well most of the time.
72	83	175.	I seldom or never have dizzy spells.
Scale 2 (D)			
62	32	89.	It takes a lot of argument to convince most people of the truth.
80	95	154.	I have never had a fit or convulsion.
79	58	58.	Everything is turning out just like the prophets of the Bible said it would.
Scale 3 (Hy)			
81	47	26.	I feel that it is certainly best to keep my mouth shut when I'm in trouble.
42	15	265.	It is safer to trust nobody.
62	32	89.	It takes a lot of argument to convince most people of the truth.
Scale 4 (Pd)			
30	65	127.	I know who is responsible for most of my troubles.
57	31	244.	My way of doing things is apt to be misunderstood by others.
67	42	237.	My relatives are nearly all in sympathy with me.
Scale 5 (Mf)			
34	5	69.	I am very strongly attracted by members of my own sex.
81	47	26.	I feel that it is certainly best to keep my mouth shut when I'm in trouble.
62	32	89.	It takes a lot of argument to convince most people of the truth.
Scale 6 (Pa)			
30	65	127.	I know who is responsible for most of my troubles.
51	26	319.	Most people inwardly dislike putting themselves out to help other people.
28	9	157.	I feel that I have often been punished without cause.
Scale 7 (Pt)			
37	17	337.	I feel anxiety about something or someone almost all the time.
45	24	94.	I do many things which I regret afterwards (I regret things more or more often than others seem to).
44	24	343.	I usually have to stop and think before I act even in trifling matters.
Scale 8 (Sc)			
18	2	363.	At times I have enjoyed being hurt by someone I loved.
26	8	345.	I often feel as if things were not real.
28	9	157.	I feel that I have often been punished without cause.
Scale 9 (Ma)			
11	66	73.	I am an important person.
30	65	127.	I know who is responsible for most of my troubles.
43	16	240.	I never worry about my looks.
Scale 0 (Si)			
45	15	398.	I often think, "I wish I were a child again."
63	31	383.	People often disappoint me.
29	11	505.	I have had periods when I felt so full of pep that sleep did not seem necessary for days at a time.

Table 9

MALES

Three MMPI items showing greatest change in percent responding True comparing the Hathaway-Briggs (H-B) sample to census-matched sample (CMS), listed in descending order of statistical significance for 13 basic MMPI scales.

<u>H-B</u>	<u>CMS</u>		Scale L
90	96	285.	Once in a while I laugh at a dirty joke.
88	95	150.	I would rather win than lose a game.
68	56	45.	I do not always tell the truth.
			Scale F
9	35	215.	I have used alcohol excessively.
96	84	164.	I like to study and read about things that I am working at.
91	79	199.	Children should be taught all the main facts of sex.
			Scale K
63	35	89.	It takes a lot of argument to convince most people of the truth.
50	26	398.	I often think, "I wish I were a child again."
57	76	134.	At times my thoughts have raced ahead faster than I could speak them.
			Scale 1 (Hs)
89	97	153.	During the past few years I have been well most of the time.
66	51	188.	I can read a long while without tiring my eyes.
80	67	163.	I do not tire quickly.
			Scale 2 (D)
63	36	89.	It takes a lot of argument to convince most people of the truth.
74	50	58.	Everything is turning out just like the prophets of the Bible said it would.
35	54	208.	I like to flirt.
			Scale 3 (Hy)
36	9	279.	I drink an unusually large amount of water every day.
49	18	265.	It is safer to trust nobody.
63	36	89.	It takes a lot of argument to convince most people of the truth.
			Scale 4 (Pd)
9	35	215.	I have used alcohol excessively.
31	59	127.	I know who is responsible for most of my troubles.
57	76	134.	At times my thoughts have raced ahead faster than I could speak them.
			Scale 5 (Mf)
31	5	69.	I am very strongly attracted by members of my own sex.
53	25	229.	I should like to belong to several clubs or lodges.
63	36	89.	It takes a lot of argument to convince most people of the truth.
			Scale 6 (Pa)
34	9	365.	I feel uneasy indoors.
77	50	348.	I tend to be on guard with people who are somewhat more friendly than I had expected.
31	59	127.	I know who is responsible for most of my troubles.
			Scale 7 (Pt)
10	30	266.	Once a week or oftener I become very excited.
27	11	337.	I feel anxiety about something or someone almost all the time.
96	84	164.	I like to study and read about things that I am working at.
			Scale 8 (Sc)
28	3	363.	At times I have enjoyed being hurt by someone I loved.
10	30	266.	Once a week or oftener I become very excited.
24	9	345.	I often feel as if things were not real.
			Scale 9 (Ma)
20	62	73.	I am an important person.
36	9	279.	I drink an unusually large amount of water every day.
31	59	127.	I know who is responsible for most of my troubles.
			Scale 0 (Si)
53	26	229.	I should like to belong to several clubs or lodges.
40	17	427.	I am embarrassed by dirty stories.
50	26	398.	I often think, "I wish I were a child again."

MMPI PROFILE FORM FOR NORMALIZED T-SCORES



NAME: _____ ID# _____ AGE: _____ SEX: _____

EDUCATION: _____ OCCUPATION: _____ DATE: _____

	L	F	K	1 (Hs)	2 (D)	3 (Hy)	4 (Pd)	5 (Mf)	6 (Pa)	7 (Pt)	8 (Sc)	9 (Ma)	0 (Si)
120													
110													
100													
90													
80													
70													
60													
50													
40													
30													
20													

Raw: _____
 Add K: _____ (.5K) _____ (.4K) _____ (.1K) _____ (.1K) _____ (.2K)
 Raw + K = _____

Not Answered / Both Answered _____ T-Scores from Adult and Age Corrected Normative Tables:*

Adult: _____
 Age: _____
 L F K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
 (Hs) (D) (Hy) (Pd) (Mf) (Pa) (Pt) (Sc) (Ma) (Si)

K Values to be added:

K	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
.5K	0	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11	11	12	12	13	13	14	14	15	15
.4K	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	6	6	6	7	7	8	8	8	9	9	10	10	10	11	11	12	12
.2K	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6

*Colligan R.C., Osborne D., Swenson W.M., Offord K.P. The MMPI: A Contemporary Normative Study. New York: Praeger, 1983.

ABSTRACT

The MMPI: A Contemporary Normative Study

Are the original MMPI norms outdated for current use?

The original normative base for the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) was established in the late 1930's and early 1940's. While there was a refining of this original sample in 1957, no contemporary standards for normal people have been published.

To develop new norms a random sample of 1,919 midwest households was contacted. Telephone interviewers obtained demographic information and determined whether there were physically or mentally handicapping conditions among potential subjects. MMPI's were returned from 667 males and 800 females (86% response rate).

This contemporary sample was somewhat older (mean age = 45, F; 43, M) and better educated (mean = 13 years, M, F) than the original sample. Responses from this sample yielded MMPI profiles significantly elevated in comparison with the original norms, with men showing greater increases than women. Many scales also demonstrated age-related changes.

The results are of practical as well as statistical significance. They suggest that clinicians take a somewhat more conservative approach to profile interpretation and also integrate the impact of age and sex on profile configuration.